

THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDERMAN[®]

MARVEL[®] COMICS GROUP



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JULY
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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



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TM

**NOW!
THE
FINAL
BATTLE
WITH
MORBIUS!**

Galaxy

**...AND ONLY
ONE SHALL
SURVIVE!**

07



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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

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JOHN
COSTANZA
LETTERER

MARIE
SEVERIN
COLORIST

...and
only
ONE
shall
SURVIVE!

THAT GLOW
AROUND
MORBIUS...!
I-IT'S...
SOME
SORT OF
FIGURE!

AND FROM
HIS SHOUTS,
IT SEEMS
TO BE
CONTROLLING
HIM, GLORY--

--FORCING
HIM TO
ATTACK
US!

WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE OF A
RUNNING BATTLE--BEGIN LAST
ISSUE--BETWEEN WALL-CRAWLER
AND LIVING VAMPIRE! AT STAKE...

THE LIFE OF
SPIDER-MAN'S FRIEND,
GLORY GRANT,
AND AT THIS
MOMENT...

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THIS AS THE THING USING HIM FADES BACK WITHIN HIM... MICHAEL MORBIUS HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY AND...

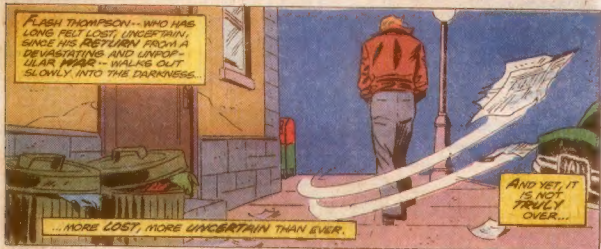


AND WHEN ONE HAS THE PROPORTIONATE POWER OF A SPIDER...











DON'T BE FOOLISH, THE BIO-CHEMICAL NATURE OF MY BODY--

--MAKES INJURING ME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO RESIST--

UH-OH!

PLOOSH!



--AS I FUSE MY BEING INTO YOURS!

IT'S LIKE FIGHTING AGAINST SILLY PUTTY!

BUT I CAN'T JUST LET HIM TAKE ME OVER LIKE HE DID WITH MORBIUS--

--I CAN'T! I--



AAAGHHH!

YES, IT IS PAINFUL. BUT... I DID WARN YOU.

AND ONCE IT'S DONE--



--YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ME BETTER!*

INSTANTLY, MADDENINGLY, THE BLOWING FIGURE VANISHES WITHIN HIM...



...AND, IN PLACE OF PAIN, SPIDER-MAN SUDDENLY HAS MEMORIES. MEMORIES OF EVENTS HE DID NOT TAKE PART IN, AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY KNOW...

...BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL MORBIUS' ARRIVAL IN A WORLD NOT HIS OWN.

IT'S DONE! THESE DIMENSION-SPANNING PALM-BANDS--*

--HAVE FREED ME FROM HAUNTING EARTH AS A BLOOD-LUSTING MONSTER! B-BUT--

* ACQUIRED FROM THE LIVING ERASER IN MARVEL 2-IN-1 #15-- AVID ARCH.



AND CALMLY, COLDLY, THE EMPATHOID SPEAKS... TELLS OF HIS CREATION THROUGH BIO-ORGANIC CHEMISTRY AS A SUPERIOR FORM OF ANDROID, ONE WHICH WOULD BE BETTER ATTUNED TO ITS HUMAN MASTERS BECAUSE IT SHARED THEIR FEELINGS.

ALAS, MICHAEL MORBIUS... I WAS IMPERFECT. ONCE I TASTED EMOTION... I CRAVED MORE, EVER STRONGER, EVER MORE VIOLENT.

SINCE MY BODY WAS DESIGNED TO BE SELF-REGENERATING AND VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTABLE, I ULTIMATELY EXHAUSTED, AND OUTLIVED MY CREATORS. THEIR WORLD BECAME THIS BARREN, IN-ESCAPABLE PRISON.

INESCAPABLE... UNTIL NOW.

YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO TAKE US FROM HERE, MICHAEL. BACK TO YOUR WORLD...

--AND ALL THE FRESH EMOTIONS IT HOLDS FOR ME.

NO! I WON'T GO BACK! EVEN IF I DYE HERE--

--IT'S BETTER THAN RETURNING, REVERTING TO THE THING I WAS!

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME GO... YOU CAN'T!

DON'T BE SILLY, MICHAEL. I CAN DO THAT... AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

YOU SEE TO FULLY ABSORB A PERSON'S EMOTIONS, I MUST BECOME ONE WITH THEM--

--LITERALLY. IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF RESTRUCTURING MY ATOMS TO MESH WITH YOURS.

W-WHAT--?!

UNFORTUNATELY, MICHAEL, IF THE PROCESS IS RESISTED, IF THE MESHING ISN'T PERFECT--

--THE RESULTS ARE HIGHLY EXCRUCIATING.

AND IN THE END... TOO EXCRUCIATING TO RESIST.

IT IS SOMETHING THAT SPIDEY
BACK IN THE PRESENT, THE
EMPHATICALLY DEEPLY BETTLED
WITHIN HIM...

...FULLY
UNDER-
STANDS.

GOOD!
NOW...

--THE BATTLE CAN RESUME
AND I CAN PLEASURE IN
THE RAW EMOTIONS IT--

GUESS
AGAIN,
PARASITE!

WHILE YOU
WERE BRINGING
ME IN LINE,
MORBIUS
MUST'VE
RECOVERED
AND SPILT.

AND I'D BETTER DO
THE SAME... HERE
COMES THE LAW!

DO AS YOU
MUST... FOR THE
MOMENT SOON.
HOWEVER, YOU
WILL FIGHT
MORBIUS!

BUT WHAT OF THE LIVING
VAMPIRE? AS THE RAYS OF
FIRST LIGHT CLIMB THE SKY...

A FITTING VICTIM...
ONE WHO WAITED
TO PREY ON
OTHERS.

AND NOW THAT
MY THIRST IS
SLAKED, I MUST
HAVE REST--

--TO BE AT FIGHTING
PEAK. COME NIGHT-
FALL WHEN I SEEK
OUT SPIDER-MAN--

--AND
THE THING
WHICH NOW
CONTROLS
HIM!

KA-RIPES!
MAYBE I
SHOULD
STICK TA
DRINKIN'
MILK--

'STEADY
DELIVERIN'
IT!

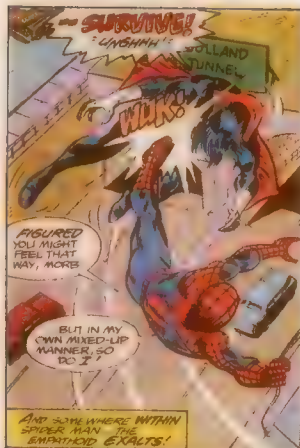
AND AS THE MORNING
PROGRESSES... SO DO BATTLE
PREPARATIONS.

THERE! I THINK THE
DAMAGE THAT TRUCK
DID TO MY WEB-
SHOOTERS--*

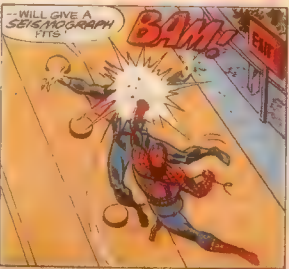
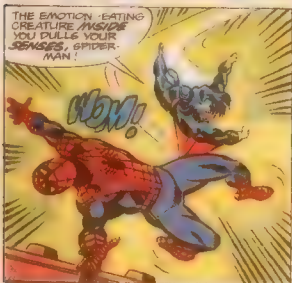
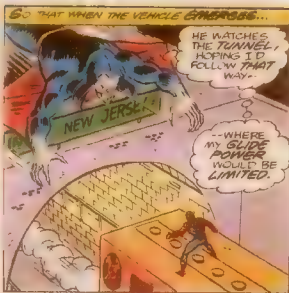
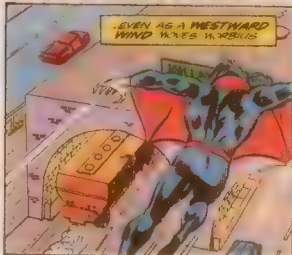
-- IS
FINALLY
FIXED.

* LAST 154-- ARCH.

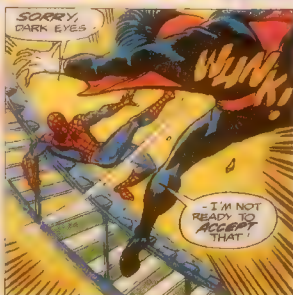
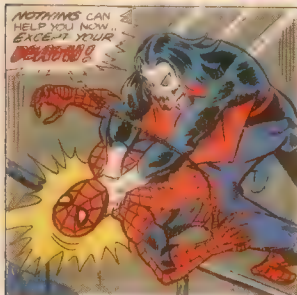
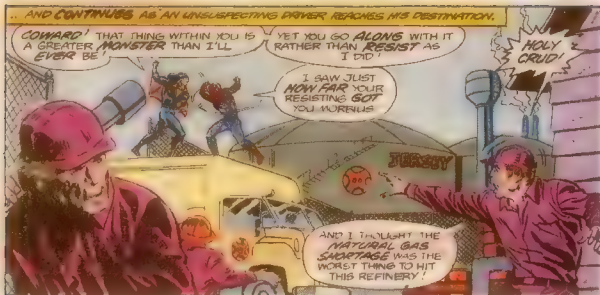


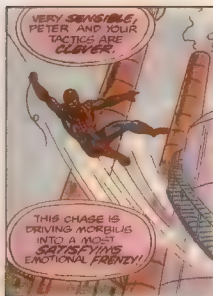


NO, THE FUEL TRUCK CARRYING SPIEY AND THE PARASITIC EMPATHOID INTO THE HOLLAND TUNNEL MERELY **MOVES** THE FIGHT.

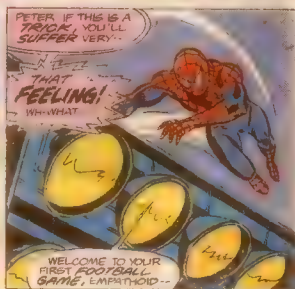
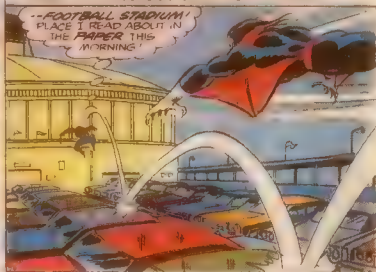


AND THE BATTLE ABOARD THE STEADILY ROLLING TRUCK BEGINS IN **EARNEST**...





AND THE DEADLY RUNNING BATTLE GOES ON... ON TO THE SUBURBS TO A COLLEGE CAMPUS AND ITS



SPIDER-MAN'S BODY GOES SUDDENLY--
INVOLUNTARILY--RISID AS THE STRANGE
ENTITY LOCKED WITHIN HIM WILDLY REACTS.



TOO FASCINATING FOR A
CERTAIN RUNNING BATTLE
HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN...



...EXCEPT BY THE VENGEANCE-OBSESSED
MICHAEL MORBIUS!



AND THE EMPATHOID
CAN ONLY BE PURGED
WITH
YOUR DEATH!

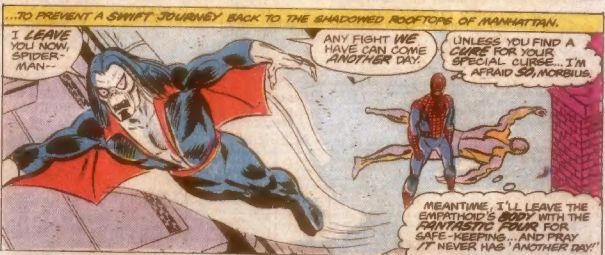
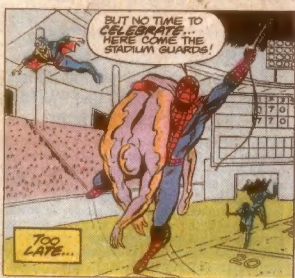
MORBIUS...
NO! YOU'RE
MAKING A
MISTAKE!







THE SCREAM RISES FROM
SPIDER-MAN'S MOUTH...



NEXT
ISSUE: THE **WHITE TIGER!**

SPIDER-MAIL

56 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 375 MADISON AVE. NYC. 10022

Let's face it, only mixed-up Marvel could give you a new title for a letters page, and then forget to mention it! But—as usual—we're nothing if not ready, willing, and able to make amends for our little faux pas. So, here's a hearty salute to Greg Mottola of Dix Hills, New York, for contributing our new letters logo—**SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL**!

(Well, actually, Greg's original suggestion was **PETER PARKER'S SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL**, but we thought the shortened form would look a bit better at the top of the page. Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Instant Explanations?)

Anywho, thanks a lot, Greg! Your no-prize is in the mail!

And now, on with the letters!

Dear Archie,

Recently, it was stated that the writers of the three Spider-Mags were going to coordinate their efforts, in order to maintain a very high standard of realistic continuity between the strips. If this is in fact true, then something very monumental is about to begin. Wein, Goodwin, and Claremont—wow!

I am extremely concerned that these three strips have a vital part, each and every issue, in the unfolding of the life of Spider-Man. I *never* want to see Spider-Man shown as a mere participant in someone else's drama in a SPIDER-MAN comic. If one of the Spider-writers must show us the stuff that Spider-Man does that has no direct influence on his life *per se* (i.e., butting in on the villain's act, with no possible repercussions for his personal life), then, please, also show us a vital peak at the things that are affecting Spider-Man in a personal way.

There is so much to the whole of Spider-Man that you can show us, aside from the mundane (a sprinkle of which is also good). It is very, very possible for the three of you to do substantial character development. There's the development of his physical and mental abilities, the discovery of his goals in life, his spiritual side, his theology, his world view, his acceptance of self, his rejection of certain personal qualities, even his view of God), his love life, his friendships, and his attempts to cope with life.

I see PPTSB as being the place where Peter Parker can interact with his friends and acquaintances, and develop from such interaction. Also, showing his friends' development here is a good idea, too. You can even show how a battle with a certain villain affects the way that Peter considers and treats others around him. MTU is a beautiful place for Spider-Man to develop deep friendships with others in his trade. His theology certainly can be developed in MTU, as he discusses the realities of justice with other super-heroes. He could at times just hang out at a coffee shop with them. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN would be the forum for the extremely crucial events in Spider-Man's life (i.e., graduation, threats to the secret identity, etc.).

It might even be good to feature the lives of others of the Parker circle of characters in MARVEL TEAM-UP. It could vary.

Don Woodhouse

Box 1207, Houghton College
Houghton, NY 14744

Thanks for the feedback, Donald. It's certainly appreciated.

That last comment is very important. "It could vary." Indeed it shall. Keep reading, and you'll see just how we make it all unfold!

Dear Archie,

If you're going to keep letting Dave Cockrum draw such fantastic covers, when are you going to let him draw the book? Don't tell me he's too busy with the X-MEN. He is? Too bad.

How about a little guest-artist's shot? It sure would be nice.

Steve Chapman

309 North Hall St.
Mesa, AZ 85203

Steve, that grinding sound you hear is coming directly from the crunching blouspids of one Chris Claremont.

What's that you say, Chris? Cockrum *better* get busy with the next X-MEN or you'll sic Wolverine on him? And Havok? Uh...oh.

Well, Steve, aside from an occasional cover or two, you're not likely to see Dave spinning too many webs this side of the emergency ward. Not unless he gets a lot faster!

Dear Archie, Sal, and Mike:

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER MAN #5 starts to catch the essence of Spidey. Fighting bad guys is Spidey's business, and I hope there are many, many more. There's the established menace of the Vulture and the new, intriguing Hitman (who does resemble the Punisher a bit much).

Why all the comments on the villains? To be truthful, I just read *Bring on the Bad Guys*, and it made me realize how important their menacing can be. You love 'em and hate 'em at the same time.

After all, if there weren't any super-powered bad guys, what would the likes Spider-Man, Nova, Daredevil, Ghost Rider, Captain Marvel, *et al* have to do?

Whoops! I was going to comment on how much I enjoyed issue #5 and got carried away. Oh, well!

Rob Allister

12000 Salfine-Milan Rd.
Milan, MI 48160

Understandable, Rob. After all, Marvel has a lot of classic villains to get excited over...every type from the slightly absurd Leap-Frog to the despot, megalomaniacal Doctor Doom.

Oh, by the way, you weren't the only one to pick up on the close resemblance between the Hitman and the Punisher. A number of rabid Marvelites commented on the similarity, which just goes to show how sharp Marvel readers are. Yep, there's a method to our madness, and you'll be seeing just what we mean in upcoming months.

Do we have to say any more? We don't? Good!

Then we'll just add a reminder to be back here in thirty days for the ninth issue of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! Ta-ta!

THE
HULK!
NIGHTHAWK!
VALKYRIE!
and MARVEL'S
MIGHTIEST
GUEST-
STARS...
EVERY MONTH IN

DEFENDERS



EXPECT THE
UNEXPECTED
WITH THE MOST
STARTLING
NON-GROUP
IN COMICS
HISTORY!